

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 540 without my signature.

Freedom of speech is integral to a democratic society, as are private property rights. This bill protects neither and infringes on both.

This bill would prevent a landlord from prohibiting the posting or displaying of campaign signs by a tenant on rented property. However, the bill would limit a tenant's right to post campaign signs to those that meet certain size limitations and for a limited time immediately before an election. If the proponents of this measure believe that tenants have a right to express their political beliefs by posting signs on their rental property, why would they not have the right to express those beliefs whenever they choose? Do people lose their right to freedom of speech simply because they rent their property?

Similarly, the bill seeks to offer a balance between the rights of tenants and the rights of property owners, but offers no clarity on the rights of property owners to control the appearance of their property and protect the environment for other tenants.

For these reasons I cannot sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger